



Southern Regional Office (SRO)
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701

DRAFT Minutes of the
Broadway-Pantano Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting - 26th meeting

August 13, 2003, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway
Tucson, Arizona

E-5460.14.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Judy Burns, Dolores Fife, James Garrett, Digger Jones, Ries Lindley, Janet Marcus, Aubrey McMullen, Jean Sabo, Walter Schaffer, Ward Wallingford

CAB Members Absent: Cheri Bludau, Patricia Gehlen, Jackie Olson, Wanda Ryckman

ADEQ Staff Present: Gretchen Wagenseller, Project Manager; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Rep. Dave Bradley, Bruce Prior, Bob Greene, Bill Holbrook, Nancy Turner, R. Jerry Bolger, Sue Bolger, Robert LeBaron, Max Becherer, Scott Simonson, Donald Moore, Les Stein, Tom Kimmel, Trish Zeligman, Lynne Hubbard, Tim Bathew, Homer Hansen

The meeting began at 6:35 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Co-chair Judy Burns conducted introductions of CAB members and public participants.

2. Approval of Minutes for 3/12/03 and 5/14/03

Ries Lindley motioned to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2003 and the May 14, 2003 CAB meetings; Dolores Fife seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed. The minutes from both meetings were approved.

3. Final Nominations and Vote on Co-Chairs

Judy Burns and Wanda Ryckman, the currently elected co-chairs, were nominated to serve another term. Janet Marcus motioned to elect Judy Burns and Wanda Ryckman; Ward Wallingford seconded the motion. No discussion was raised. The CAB voted all in favor of Judy Burns and Wanda Ryckman as co-chairs.

4. Call to the Public

No questions were brought forward.

5. WQARF Board Meeting Update

Janet Marcus said she was unable to attend the last WQARF Board Meeting but she will provide an update at the next CAB meeting of the most recent WQARF Board meeting.

6. Site Investigation Update/Q&A

Gretchen Wagenseller provided background on the WQARF site investigation. She introduced Ray Murray, City of Tucson Environmental Services, project manager for the Western Groundwater Containment System (WGCS). She said that this project was an early response action by the city to protect drinking water wells. She used a map to describe the WQARF site area and explained what is known about the source of the PCE contamination from the Broadway North Landfill. She explained the operation of a Soil Vapor Extraction System which was installed on the landfill, and operation results over several years.

Ray Murray explained that the WGCS is located next to the Wilmot Library off of Wilmot Road. He said the system has pumped and treated 141,600,000 gallons of water since March 24, 2003. In March, before treatment, the groundwater was at 8.7 parts per billion (ppb) of PCE. In June, the average was 6.5 ppb. The drinking water standard for PCE is 5 ppb, so the levels exceed the standard. He said pumping began at 1,100 gallons per minute, now pumping is at 700 gallons per minute because one of the injection wells is not taking water as planned, so this malfunction is being resolved. He said that the WGCS is computerized and a spike occurred during several electrical storms, shutting down the system. The city plans to upgrade the electrical control system so that it will automatically restart instead of requiring a staff person to come to the facility to manually restart it.

He said that the city and the state are communicating well on this project through a workshare agreement. He explained where the installation of the horizontal drilling took place for the system and said he received a call from the developer of the property at 5th and Wilmot about the location of the pipe. After meeting with them, it was determined that they could build over the top of the pipe with no problem because it is so deeply buried.

Dolores Fife said she had heard that gang members may have damaged the methane system at the edge of the landfill. Ray Murray said he had not heard that this happened. He offered to provide tours of the WGCS to anyone that is interested; call him at 791-5414.

Gretchen Wagenseller elaborated on the state's partnership with the city to install the WGCS. She said that under the workshare agreement, ADEQ reimburses the city for costs. The city performed the groundwater modeling and then the state reviewed and approved the design. Under the workshare, the city installed the system with the state reimbursing the city for most of the costs for the installation and for the operation and maintenance.

She explained recent performance monitoring of the system by measuring the well water elevations and said they also performed water quality sampling. She said the report has not been finalized but she drew the preliminary capture zone which she said looks similar to previous modeling done by the city. She said a drop in water elevations indicates good news, and mounding is occurring where injection is taking place, which shows the system works. She emphasized that none of the wells are drinking water wells.

She reported that 4,000 feet of fence has been installed around the landfill property. The new owners intend to either develop the land or sell it to someone else for development. She said the fence should help reduce wildcat dumping; no fence was installed along the river walkway. She numerous potential hazards exist on the landfill.

Dolores Fife said she took a landfill tour sponsored by the city. She said that she and her neighbors found that someone had cut the new fence to get on the landfill. She said she spoke with the owners and they told her they would repair the fence. She pointed out that in some areas, people can crawl under the fence. She said the neighborhood is disappointed that they can no longer walk their dogs on the landfill. She said the owners told her that it is not safe and there are liability issues. She said once development begins, she will encourage the new owners to create a walking path for neighborhood access.

Gretchen Wagenseller announced that the SVE system was recently struck by lightning, which was reported to her by Tucson Electric Power. The electrical system was badly damaged, but not the pumps. She said they had extracted 5,000 lbs. of volatile organic compounds from underground before the system was shut down last September to perform rebound testing. There are no plans to turn the system back on at this time.

She reported on the WQARF budget and said that the site did receive enough funds (at this time, \$600,000 for the year) for the Broadway-Pantano site, which should be enough to operate and maintain the WGCS, to complete the Remedial Investigation, groundwater testing and possibly enough funds will remain to complete the Feasibility Study.

She said questions about perchlorate came up at the last meeting, so she researched the question through the EPA to find out if a drinking water standard has been established for this chemical. She was told that EPA is planning to create a maximum contaminant standard, but that this will take several years. The State Department of Health Services came up with a health-based guidance level of 14 parts per billion. She said she also understands that California is working on a regulation for perchlorate.

She reported on results from the surface soil sampling, which took place in April. Contractors walked the landfill to observe above-ground areas where dumping might have occurred. She said they also looked for low points and all areas of interest were marked on a map. She said samples were collected from the top six inches of soil. She said the soil met the residential soil remediation levels; no hot spots were found. She said they were not able to sample the entire (100 acres) landfill. The study is not definitive but the news was good on the portions they did sample. She provided co-chair Judy Burns with a copy of the report, which is available to borrow by CAB members, or people can view the file at the downtown ADEQ office. She said this report will be included in the draft Remedial Investigation report for the Broadway-Pantano WQARF site, which should be put out for public comment with the next few months.

Ries Lindley asked for an overview on the operations of the Soil Vapor Extraction System (SVE). Gretchen Wagenseller described the soil conditions at the landfill, the techniques used to reach the groundwater, and how the volatile organic compounds were removed through the system. Ray Murray explained how a mass calculation was done to come up with a protection percentage, and the actual results came close to projections. Gretchen Wagenseller said that it is unknown how much PCE waste was put in the landfill over time. She answered questions about cleanup techniques such as capping the landfill. Ray Murray said that this technique does not work well in arid regions and can sometime cause more contamination because the vapors can be pushed down to the groundwater even faster. Gretchen Wagenseller explained how the SVE rebound testing is performed. She explained why it is necessary to wait to restart the system to determine if there is an increase in concentrations of PCE and the results are still being reviewed. She said PCE is declining in most of the SVE monitor wells around the landfill. She showed a current map of the contamination plume at the site.

She explained the process after the release of the draft Remedial Investigation report, which will be finalized after the Land and Water Use study is completed. The report will be made available for comment. The Feasibility Study will answer the question on cleanup methods.

CAB members asked questions about past landfill operations and future development potential. She said that the Broadway South Landfill is being evaluated for placement on the WQARF registry.

7. CAB Outreach Reports/Results of Newsletter Mailing

Eileen Palese reported on the success of the newsletter created by the CAB, which was mailed to area residents. She said that ADEQ received 198 reply cards, 23 required a written response, 66 made comments that did not require a response, and 157 asked to be on the mailing list. There are now a total of 381 people on the mailing list for the Broadway-Pantano site. No one expressed interest in joining the board, but some made favorable comments about the work of the board.

Judy Burns reported that she joined city staff on an Access Tucson program about the WQARF site. She said no one called in to ask questions.

Eileen Palese thanked the Arizona Daily Star reporter for attending the meeting and for the recent newspaper article which brought some public participants to the meeting.

Ward Wallingford said that an article he wrote will appear in the El G.H.E.K.O. neighborhood newsletter covering the installation of the WGCS.

Eileen Palese said that any upcoming public comment documents will be available at the Wilmot Library, at the Ward 2 office, and at ADEQ's office downtown. She said public meetings will be held, with CAB involvement, after the release of the draft Remedial Investigation report. She said that ADEQ is working with the Library on handling all of the numerous reports being placed in the Information Repository.

8. Other Administrative Business

None discussed.

9. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next meeting of the Broadway-Pantano CAB will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, 2003, at Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO, at (520) 628-6712, for meeting information and proposed agenda.

The CAB asked for a report on responsible parties. Gretchen Wagenseller said she can't provide details while the investigation is taking place, but when final, the information will be made public. She explained the steps toward the Feasibility Study and the opportunities for public comment.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tapes or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.